

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1952

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Wisbech.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting to you my report on the general health of the Borough for the past year, ending 31st December, 1952.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area 4,666 acres.

Estimated resident population mid-1952, 17,150.

Rateable value £87,872.

Sum realised by a penny rate, £338:3:4.

Number of inhabited houses, about 4,836.

LIVE BIRTHS.	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	278	142	136
Illegitimate	24	11	13

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population mid-1952, 17·60.

STILL BIRTHS.

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	6	3	3
Illegitimate	1	1	0

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 22·33.

DEATHS.	212	112	100
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Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated average population, 12·35

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES:—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal sepsis	0	0
Other puerperal causes.....	0	0

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE:—

All infants per 1,000 live births 19·86

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 14·38

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 83·33

Deaths from cancer (all ages) 37

Deaths from measles (all ages) 0

Deaths from whooping cough (all ages) 0

Deaths from diarrhoea (under two years of age) 0

Deaths from motor vehicle accidents 2

The comparable figures for towns of approximately the same size are as follows:—

Birth rate per 1,000 15·5

Death rate per 1,000 11·2

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age... 25·8

In the Borough there is a School Clinic, a Tubercular Clinic, two General Hospitals, and a Hospital for chronic aged and sick female patients, an Orthopaedic Clinic held weekly at the North Cambridgeshire Hospital. Infectious Diseases are accommodated at Peterborough and East Dereham Isolation Hospitals.

Excellent Motor Ambulance facilities are available, whilst Diphtheria Antitoxin and Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are provided when necessary.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The duties connected with this are carried out by the M.O.H. who is a part-time officer, the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, the Borough Senior and Additional Sanitary Inspectors, all full-time officers, together with those of the Council's employees who are specially needed for sanitary work.

INFANT AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Infant and Child Welfare Clinic in Norwich Road is held weekly on Friday afternoons, and is well attended.

WELFARE ATTENDANCES FOR 1952

Number of children who attended during the year 354

Number of children who attended for the first time, and who at their first attendance were under 1 year 136

Number of children attending for the first time, and who at their first attendance were between 1 and 5 years 21

Total 511

Total number of attendances made by children during the year.

1. Under 1 year of age 2752

2. Over 1 year of age 745

Total 3497

DIPHtheria Immunisation.

Number of children under the age of 5 years who have completed a full course of immunisation against Diphtheria during the year 147

HOUSING.

FUTURE REQUIREMENTS.

The need for further houses in the Borough is emphasised by the fact that at the end of the year approximately 640 applicants remained on the waiting list, with an additional 80 aged persons who required suitable houses.

BUILDING.

Houses completed in 1952:—

Wisbech Corporation	67
Private Enterprise	23
Total post war houses completed and occupied	403
Work in hand, Corporation	170
Waiting list, Corporation	640
Work in hand, Private Enterprise	23

WATER.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS.

Appearance	Clear and bright
pH	7.5
Alkalinity	184
Chlorine as Chlorides (p.p.m.)	10.4
Chlorine (free) (p.p.m.)	Trace
Hardness Carbonate (p.p.m.)	184
Hardness Non-Carbonate (p.p.m.)	69
Total Hardness (p.p.m.)	253

BACT. COUNT PER MILLION.

48 hours @ 37° C.	5
72 hours @ 22° C.	7

BACT. COLI PER 100 MILLION.

Presumptive	Absent
Confirmatory	Absent
Most probable Number	—

REMARKS.

The above result indicates a water of the highest bacterial purity, pure and wholesome in character, and suitable as a public supply for drinking and domestic purposes.

EXTENSIONS.

Housing sites	3" pipe 688 yards
Housing sites	4" pipe 5943 yards
Relaying mains	6" pipe 1324 yards

Renewals	3" pipe 496 yards
Renewals	4" pipe 200 yards
New connections to mains	183

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

PART I OF THE ACT.


1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	32	18	—	—
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities	102	55	—	—
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities (excluding outworkers' premises).	—	—	—	—
Total	134	73	—	—

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Number of cases in which defects were found
Referred

Particulars	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H. M. Inspector	Number of Prosecutions instituted
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences—					
(a) insufficient	1	1	—	—	—



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(b) unsuitable or defective ...	3	3	—	—	—
(c) not separ- ate for sexes...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relat- ing to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	4	4	—	—	—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

	<i>Total cases Notified</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
Smallpox	0	0
Scarlet Fever	14	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Pneumonia	5	1
Erysipelas	6	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	0
Enteric Fever.....	0	0
Measles	40	0
Acute Encephalitis	0	0
Whooping Cough	86	0
Paratyphoid Fever	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	1

NOTIFICATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS.

<i>Age periods</i>	<i>New cases</i>				<i>Deaths</i>			
	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
15	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
25	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
45	3	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
55	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and over	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	10	7	0	2	2	2	0	1

I remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Very faithfully yours,

H. LESLIE GROOM, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Medical Officer of Health.

